

HB 3101 -4, -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires public and private schools teaching grades K-12 to have at least one panic alarm in each school building and to ensure panic alarms are maintained in working order.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Utility for response to medical emergencies
- Sustainability of funding for maintenance

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Replaces the measure. Requires public schools to have wireless panic alert device in each classroom of each school building. Exempts schools from requirement to use wireless panic alert devices if school instead uses hard-wired panic alert devices or combination of wireless and hard-wired panic alert devices. Exempts schools from requirement to use panic alert devices for schools that demonstrate financial hardship. Requires schools to ensure that panic alert devices are maintained and in working order. Establishes operative date of July 1, 2024 and applies requirements to schools beginning 2024-2025 school year. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to assist school districts in purchasing hard-wired panic alert devices when schools lack technical infrastructure to support wireless devices. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

-6 Replaces the measure. Requires public schools to have wireless panic alert device in each classroom of each school building. Exempts schools from requirement to use wireless panic alert devices if school instead uses hard-wired panic alert devices or combination of wireless and hard-wired panic alert devices. Exempts schools from requirement to use panic alert devices if school lacks technical infrastructure to support wireless devices and school governing body determines that there are insufficient funds to install and maintain hard-wired devices. Requires schools to ensure that panic alert devices are maintained and in working order. Establishes operative date of July 1, 2024 and applies requirements to schools beginning 2024-2025 school year. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to assist school districts in purchasing and installing wireless panic alert devices. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

Legislation known as Alyssa's Law, which requires the installation of panic alarms, has passed in three states: New Jersey (A764 2019), Florida (SB 70 2020), and New York (S7132B 2022). According to the nonprofit Make Our Schools Safe, five states other than Oregon - Arizona, Texas, Nebraska, Georgia, and Virginia - have also introduced legislation.

House Bill 3101 requires schools to have at least one working panic alarm in each school building.